

FLAGELLIC et al. -- 10/698,012
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IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the present abstract and replace it with the following new abstract:

In a lithographic projection apparatus, a space between an optical element ~~of a projection system~~ is filled with a first fluid and a second fluid separated by a ~~translucent~~ transparent plate. The first and second fluids have first and second indices of refraction, respectively, that are different from one another. The first fluid is provided ~~in a space~~ between a substrate and the ~~translucent~~ transparent plate and preferably has an index of refraction similar to the index of refraction of the substrate. The second fluid is provided ~~in a space~~ between the ~~translucent~~ transparent plate and the optical element and preferably has an index of refraction similar to the index of refraction of the optical element. The ~~translucent~~ transparent plate has a third index of refraction between the first and second indices of refraction. ~~The third index of refraction and~~ may be equal to the first index of refraction or the second index of refraction. A device manufacturing method includes filling a space between the optical element and the substrate with at least two fluids having different indices of refraction.